

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for brightening virgin mechanical pulp. The method comprises combining: (i) an aqueous solution comprising sodium borohydride and sodium hydroxide; and (ii) an aqueous solution comprising sodium bisulfite, in a
5 chemical mixer and adding output of the chemical mixer to an aqueous slurry of virgin mechanical pulp. The ratio of (moles bisulfite – moles hydroxide)/moles borohydride is from 0 to 7.8.